

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/790,197

Examiner

Dharti H. Patel

Applicant(s)

ASANO ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on 05/08/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 1: The prior art teaches an earth leakage breaker for protecting a main circuit against over-current and ground failure comprising a main-body case, a main contact disposed in the main-body case, a switch mechanism, an operating handle, a leakage tripping device, an over-current tripping device, a leakage-detection circuit, a power-supply line, but does not disclose a test switch disposed in the main-body case for turning on and off a power supply circuit of the power-supply line when the switch mechanism turns on and off the main contact, said test switch associated with the switch mechanism and operable to turn on and off the power supply circuit of the power supply line when the operating handle is actuated to turn on and off the switch mechanism. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitation is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 6: The prior art does not disclose a test switch disposed in the main-body case for turning on and off a power supply circuit of the power-supply line when the switch mechanism turns on and off the main contact; wherein said test switch is arranged so that the switch mechanism turns off the main contact when the test switch turns off the power-supply line; wherein the test switch is provided with an actuator moved according to an on-off operation thereof and connected to a tripping cross bar of the switch mechanism so that when the test switch is turned off, the tripping cross bar is driven to a latch release position to

thereby trip the switch mechanism and the tripping cross bar is held at the latch release position to prevent the main contact from turning on, and the tripping cross bar is released from the latch release position when the test switch turns on the power-supply line; and wherein the test switch is a sliding switch or toggle switch having an operating knob, said actuator being disposed on an operating member connected to the operating knob. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 9: The prior art does not disclose a test switch disposed in the main-body case for turning on and off a power supply circuit of the power-supply line when the switch mechanism turns on and off the main contact; and a zero-phase current transformer disposed in the main-case body for detecting an unbalance current in the main circuit, said test switch being disposed in a space between the zero-phase current transformer and a sidewall of the main body case, said test switch being turned off in testing dielectric strength to separate the leakage-detection circuit from the main circuit; wherein the test switch includes an operating section facing a window hole formed in an upper cover of the main-body case and is interconnected to a trip cross bar of the switching mechanism for driving the trip cross bar to a latch releasing position and holding the same to open the main circuit when the test switch turns off the power-supply

line. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dharti H. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DHP
08/07/2006


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